[MR. T. Kumara Pillai.]

period is fixed during which salt should not be used after it has been collected from the salt pans by the producers?

(*b*) If there is any such period, will the Government be pleased to say how it is that, contrary to the rule, some who have collected salt very early do not get their *kudivaram*, while others who have collected it only later get it in a shorter time?

(*c*) Are the Government aware of the fact that this policy causes loss to the salt-producers?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No definite period has been fixed during which salt should not be used after it has been collected. Salt is generally permitted to be issued only after it has become well dried in the drying ground. This period of dryage would vary according to the weather and the quality of the salt manufactured. Ordinarily about three months is the period required for dryage.

(*b*) Government have received no complaints of the sort referred to.

(*c*) In view of the answer to part (*b*), this part of the question does not call for an answer.

Salt destroyed by Floods.

6. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the estimate that three lakhs of maunds of salt stored up in the Tamaracolam factories was destroyed by the floods of Vrischikam, 1098, is accurate?

(*b*) How was the estimate of the quantity of salt destroyed by the floods in the Tamaracolam factories arrived at?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the cyclone alone was responsible for the destruction of the salt stored up in the Tamaracolam factories, consequent upon the floods there?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The estimate is fairly accurate.

(*b*) The estimate was arrived at by deducting, from the stored up and estimated quantities of salt in the factories before the 14th Vrischikam, 1098, the quantity that was left in the factories after the floods.

(*b*) The cyclone alone is reported to be responsible for the loss.

Weighment of Salt in Factories.

7. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether it is usual now to weigh and take charge of the salt collected by the producers in the salt factories, and, if not, whether there was such a practice before;

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(*b*) when it was discontinued; and

(*c*) what the reasons were for the same?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Since the introduction of the new Salt Rules from the 1st Kumbham, 1095, salt is weighed and then stored on the storage platforms. Prior to the above date, there was no weighment before storage.

(*b*) and (*c*) No answer is called for, in view of the answer to part (*a*).

Jenmi-Kudiyan Bill.

8. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state how long it will take them to publish in the Gazette the Jenmi and Kudiyan Draft Bill, referred to in their answer to interpellation No. 137, asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 10th Vrischikam,1098?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The bill is still under the consideration of Government.

Dietary in the Hospital for Lepers.

9. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the patients in the hospital for lepers have sent a petition to Government stating that their dietary has been changed and reduced?

(*b*) If so, what action has been taken thereon?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount which used to be spent on account of diet in the hospital for lepers during the three years preceding the appointment of Dr. Lakshmanan as Darbar Physician and the amount spent subsequently till the end of 1097?

(*d*) Are the lepers given tapioca either as a substitute for rice, or for securing economy in its consumption?

(*e*) Has the Lepers Regulation made provision for a board of visitors for the inspection of the hospital for lepers? Has such a board been appointed? If not, will a board be appointed?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes. Two petitions without signatures were received in the beginning of Kumbham, 1098.

(*b*) The petitions were sent to the Darbar Physician who made a personal and full investigation of them and found that they were groundless.

(*c*) The amounts spent on account of diet in the hospital for lepers during the past six years are shown below:—

Year.	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097
Amount. Rs.	11,346	11,617	13,019	16,652	16,366	13,776

(*d*) No.

(*e*) The member is referred to section 5 of Regulation III of 1077 and the rules issued thereunder.

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